

The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

Special points of interest:

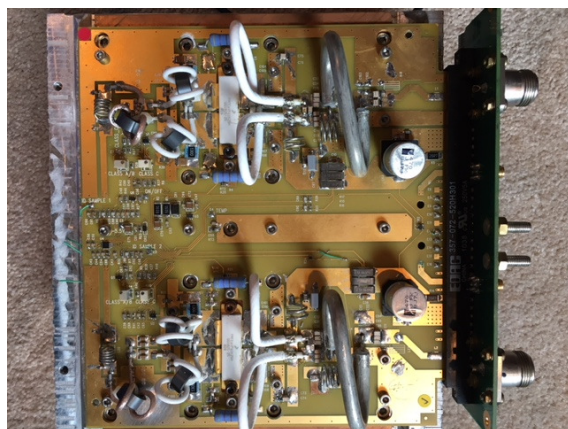
- From the President
- June Program
- True Wireless
- DX Contests

How to Join

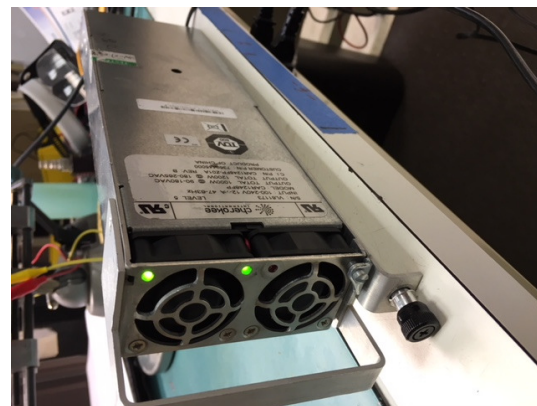
- * Come to a club meeting;
- * or send in an application by mail (form on www.NADXC.org)
- * or call Tom Duncan at (256)705-2147

From the President

This year Bob, K8KI and I went to the Dayton Hamvention again. I had a great time even with all the rain. Yaesu had a new dual receiver SDR transceiver and Kenwood had a single receiver down converting transceiver. It is exciting to get the first look at new products. Sadly, some like the Alpha tuner never make it to market. The Dayton Hamvention did a fantastic job this year with the traffic and parking. They used one new building this year and eliminated one large tent. They used gravel in the flea market area this year, so it made out much better in the rain. I was happy to find a Harris FM amplifier module pictured below that had already been modified for 2 meters and 3 each kilowatt power supplies. The amplifier has 2 of the LDMOS 1.25 KW chips. It does not have the combiner. I will use this on 2 meter EME. I got this at a great price. It



will take some work to get it working and in an enclosure with cooling, but it will be a nice upgrade to my current amplifier. I have tested the 3 power supplies, one below, and they work.



At Four Days in May on Thursday night I purchased a QRP Labs 5 watt 20 meter transceiver kit that had a VFO, 200Hz filter, CW keyer with sidetone and decoder, S meter and a 2 line display for \$49. It also includes a voltmeter, RF power meter, signal generator and frequency counter. I had to get this just to understand the Class E amplifier and see how he could offer so much at that price point. The transformer toroid with 4 separate windings was the toughest part of the kit. I got a new scraper to help get the enamel off the wire. That has been a frequent problem for me. The initial alignment went well.

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EME

June Program by Steve Werner, AG4W

Steve's Dayton amplifier find reported above will provide him a tremendous boost launching a signal toward the moon, hopefully so that it doesn't get lost on the way back. So as to ensure enough time for the program telling us all about it, our business meeting at Newk's will begin at 6:45 pm—just move everything up 15 minutes. See you Tuesday!



From the President

(cont'd from p. 1)



On Saturday I also found replacement tubes for the Collins 75S3 from Tom's estate I'm trying to restore for Mike, KF4BOG to use. Bob, K8KI and I took the radio all apart and it really cleaned up nice. I replaced the tubes and the 75S3B did well on CW listening to the CQ WPX contest. It still has some issues on SSB.



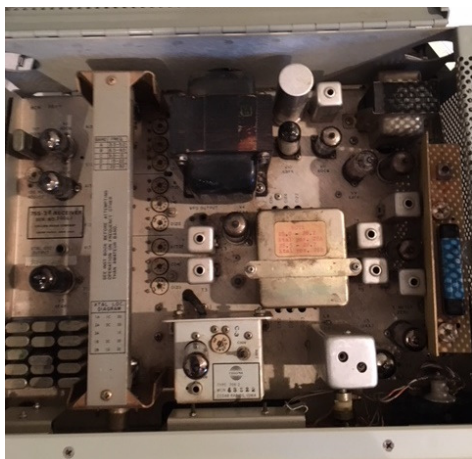
I was pleased at the last club meeting we had agreement on how to sell N4KG's estate. It is nice to see much of it has found a new home and will be used by club members. John even found a good home for the Henry amplifier. Tom would be pleased. Next, we will try to do a yard sale sometime in June at his home. I have ordered some parts to test the 2 receive antennas I have.



I will start this month's meeting at 6:45PM so that we will have 2 hours available for the meeting. At this month's meeting I will be doing the program on my EME journey. I will focus on the road already taken, the plan ahead and some of the side trips I have made along the way. I recently read this about EME. "The military spent some time and money on this Back in the Old days, but they stopped doing it because it's dumb and horrifically inefficient, which means it is absolutely irresistible for amateur radio operators." I think he nailed it.

I am glad we have a great speaker, Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF from Z60A for our hamfest banquet and have a commitment from Gigaparts and Yaesu for the FTDX1200 main prize. I look forward to seeing how many tickets we sell.

73 Steve AG4W



True Wireless

The LongPath Staff

While the LongPath may indeed be of Daily Planet stature, and our reporters right up there with Clark, Lois, and Jimmy, not all our time is spent beating the competition to the scoop. Sometimes we just goof off, or let's say bone up on other periodicals of interest to our readers. One of these, the *Proceedings of the IEEE*, has monthly graced the coffee table of the LongPath reception area for several decades at least.

"Scanning our Past" is a long-running fixture of *Proceedings* which reports on some person or event of interest to some faction of the electrical engineering community. This month's edition really hit home with "Nikola Tesla's True Wireless: A Paradigm Missed" by A. David Wunsch. The article is available to those who don't receive *Proceedings*

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The LongPath Staff

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Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ, Minutes

Steve Werner, AG4W, From the President

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DX Contests for June

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

IARU HF World Championships (SSB/CW), 160 - 10M

July 14, 1200Z to July 15, 1200Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus ITU zone; IARU HQ stns send HQ abbrev.

See page 83, July QST and <http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship>

DMC RTTY Contest (RTTY), 80 - 10M

July 21, 1200Z to July 22, 1200Z

Exchange: RST plus S.N.

See page 83, July QST and www.digital-modes-club.org

RSGB IOTA Contest (CW/SSB), 80 - 10M

July 28, 1200Z, to July 29, 1200Z

Exchange: RS(T), S. N., & IOTA# if island

See page 83, July QST and www.rsgbcc.org

European HF Championship (CW/SSB), 160-10M

August 4, 1200Z to 2359Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus year first licensed

See: <http://lea.hamradio.si/~scc/euhf/euhfcrules.htm>

WAE DX Contest, (CW), 80 - 10M

August 11 0000Z, to Aug. 12, 2359Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus Serial #

See: <http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/waedc/en/rules/>

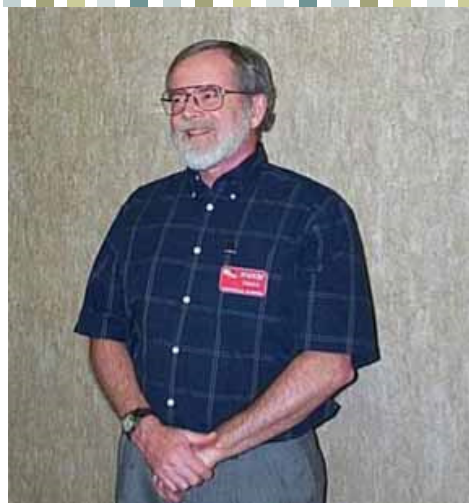
OTHERS:

Run for the Bacon Contest

0100Z-0300Z, July 16

RSGB Low Power Contest

0900 – 1600, July 22



Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals. Beware.

Chuck, N4NM

True Wireless (cont'd from p. 2)

at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/321105897_Paradigm_Lost_Nikola_Tesla's_True_Wireless. There has in recent years in the likes of “Scanning our Past” been a good bit of teeth-gnashing and tunic rending because of the possibility that the real inventor of some technology or discoverer of a key piece of science was not given due credit. Tesla and Westinghouse, for example, have benefitted somewhat from this in the credit they now receive versus Edison and J.P. Morgan regarding electrical power distribution. Efforts to set the record straight regarding electric lighting, the field-effect transistor, and the telephone are in a similar vein.

As Wunsch reports based on Tesla's 1919 article “The True Wireless”, Tesla promoted his version of the propaga-

tion of electromagnetic waves against the explanations of Maxwell, Hertz, Heaviside, Braun, and others. It is a rather pathetic story of an unquestionably great figure playing the fool due to his own lack of understanding of the technology.

Let's remember that Tesla was not just a great inventor, but a great self promotor. In this way he stands alongside Lee De Forest, Hugo Gernsback, Thomas Edison, and David Sarnoff. These fellows knew the value of having their names constantly in front of the public. In order to keep the public interest, explanations of technologies had to be simple enough to be somewhat understandable, yet elusive enough that not just anyone could be a real first-class wizard. But there was a “line of credibility” not to be crossed, and in “The True Wireless” Tesla

crossed it.

Tesla, De Forest, Gernsback, Edison, and Sarnoff all put a face behind “popular technology”, and for that we owe them a debt of gratitude. I suspect most of us were infected by the bug that “The Boy's First Book of Radio” planted. Maybe it was watching Mickey Rooney explain ham radio in “Love finds Andy Hardy”. Or much later, how about those Forrest Mims Engineering Notebooks you used to be able to pick up at Radio Shack? Whatever it was, it was cool stuff, and we wanted to be part of it.

Anyway, here's your homework assignment: read Wunsch's article. It's really good stuff. And you get to find out where “paradigm shift” came from.